(b) the details of the accusations made by the employees union on this scam with special reference to abuse of power, receipt of illegal gratification and loss of revenue sustained by the Exchequer;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a Cabinet decision on this allocation as stated by the Minister to the Press; and

(d) the adverse observations made by the Central Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Commission and the then Finance Secretary, Shri Subba Rao, on this aspect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The Government has announced detailed guidelines for auction and allotment of spectrum for 3G telecom services, on 1st August 2008 and certain amendments on 11th September, 2008.

As per the guidelines any person (i) who holds a UAS/CMTS licence; or (ii) (a) who has previous experience of running 3G telecom services; and (b) gives an undertaking to obtain Unified Access Services Licence (UASL) as per Department of Telecommunications guidelines dated 14.12.2005 before starting telecom operations, can bid for 3G spectrum through a controlled simultaneous ascending e-auction. The auction of 3G will be completed by January, 2009.

Spectrum shall be auctioned in blocks of 2x5 MHz in 2.1 GHz band. The number of blocks to be auctioned varies in different telecom service areas.

One block each of 2x5 MHz in 2.1 GHz band has been allocated to MTNL in Delhi and Mumbai/Metro service Areas and BSNL in other Service Areas at a price equal to the highest bid price determined through e-auction in the respective service area.

(d) Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has desired to be apprised of the terms and conditions that have been finalized by the Department for 3G auction and suggested to confirm that there is no barrier for a Level Playing Field and auctioning shall be following a due transparent process. CVC has been apprised accordingly.

Allotment of spectrum to new telecom firms

1889. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has sought details of Government policy of allotting spectrum to new telecom firms;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the allotment of spectrum to foreign players at a huge premium have caused massive revenue loss to the exchequer;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to adopt transparency in allotting spectrum to telecom firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) had desired to know the method of allocation of spectrum to different operators. The information regarding the allocation procedure was provided to CVC.

(c) to (e) The initial spectrum is allotted to the mobile telecom services in accordance with the relevant provisions of Unified Access Service License (UASL), subject to availability of spectrum. With growth of service and increased subscriber base, additional spectrum is allotted, subject to availability, as per eligibility criteria which is based on the number of active subscribers, peak traffic of the operator's network, demographic features of the service area. These criteria are reviewed from time to time taking into account relevant factors and technological developments. The latest orders regarding eligibility criteria for allotment of additional spectrum have been issued on 17th January 2008. (Copy in given at Statement)

Statement

Copy of order regarding criteria for allotment of GSM spectrum

Government of India
Ministry of Communications and IT
Department of Telecommunication
WPC Wing, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi-1.

No. J-14025/200(17)/2004-NT Dated the 17th January, 2008

O R D E R

In continuation of the orders dated 09-01-2008 relating to subscriber base criteria for allotment of **GSM** spectrum, the following subscriber based criteria, in the line with TRAI recommendations shall be followed, as an interim measure.

	Subscriber base* (In Lakh) supported by GSM spectrum in MHz. (eligibility for allotment of next step)										
Service area	2× 4.4	2× 6.2	2× 7.2	2× 8.2	2× 9.2	2× 10.2	2× 11.2	2× 12.2	2× 13.2	2× 14.2	2× 15@
Metro Service Areas	5	15	18	21	26	32	40	48	57	65	
Telecom Circles as service Area Category 'A' and 'B'	8	30	41	53	68	82	90	98	107	116	
Category 'C' Circles	6	20	31	42	52	62	70	78	87	96	

@Present upper limit for spectrum allotment.

*These are the figures of active subscribers (VLR) averaged over a month. In addition, peak traffic, averaged over a month should be 40 milli-Eriangs per active subscriber in the criteria.

2. The spectrum allotment is subject to availability of spectrum.

3. The active subscribers and peak traffic averaged over a month (for minimum of 40m Erlangs per subscriber) in the Visitor Locator Register (VLR) would be taken into account for this purpose.

4. The revenue share for spectrum charges, as per orders in this regard, would apply on the AGR for the complete service area.

5. This comes into force with immediate effect.

-sd-
(D. JHA)
Assistant Wireless Adviser
Ph: 2303 6681

To

(1) All Concerned.

(2) Unified Access Service Providers/Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Providers.

(3) COAI

Reasons for decline in MTNL mobile phone users

1890. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of mobile subscribers of pre paid and post paid MTNL Trump and Dolphin have been decreased where as the numbers have been increased in private mobile operators;

(b) if so, whether Government analysed the reason for the decline in the number of MTNL mobile users;

(c) the average growth or decline in using MTNL mobile phones during the last three years; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The number of prepaid and postpaid GSM mobile connections are increasing in MTNL as given below:—

As on	GSM connections in MTNL			% Growth
	Postpaid	Prepaid	Total	
31.3.05	279312	602384	881629	
31.3.06	483693	1457462	1941155	120.16
31.3.07	633059	3113755	2746814	41.50
31.3.08	732254	2509597	3241851	18.02*
31.10.08	742596	3001283	3743879	15.48

*The growth was less because of capacity constraint.